**DCLG User Engagement – reductions to Local Government Finance statistical collections**

**Introduction**

In 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) set in place new arrangements for managing down burden and cost of central data requirements.

The department established the Single Data List as a comprehensive catalogue of central governments data requirements from local authorities. If the data requirement is not on the list, local authorities are under no obligation to collect or send it to central departments.

In November 2013 DCLG’s finance Minister Brandon Lewis wrote to all departments and bodies with data collections on the Single Data List seeking their commitment for a further reduction in the data that we require local authorities to submit to central government, and to local authority leaders inviting them to suggest ways in which data collections could either be stopped or reduced.

Substantial reductions of around a third have already been made in DCLG's own returns however the local government finance returns have so far been largely unaffected. This user engagement exercise contains proposals for reductions in data collections covering exclusively local government finance data.

We have already consulted with key government users and reviewed their requirements. This has helped inform our initial proposals. Before any final decisions are made and to ensure that the requirements of all users are taken into account, DCLG is seeking your views.

Your views will help to inform these important decisions.

**Topic and data items under consideration**

* [Revenue Account Budget forms (RA)](#_Revenue_Account_Budget)
  + [Specific and Special Revenue Grants form (SG)](#_Revenue_Account_Budget_1)
* [Revenue Account Outturn forms (RO)](#_Revenue_Account_Outturn)
  + [Specific and Special Revenue Grants form (RG)](#_Revenue_Account_Outturn_1)
  + [Trading Account Services form (TSR)](#_Revenue_Account_Outturn_2)
  + [Subjective Analysis Return form (SAR) (reduced frequency)](#_Revenue_Account_Outturn_3)
* [Capital Forecast Return form (CFR)](#_Capital_Forecast_Return)
* [Capital Outturn Return (COR)](#_Capital_Outturn_Return)
  + [COR4 and COR5 selected items](#_Capital_Outturn_Return)
* [Council Tax Base Form](#_Council_Tax_Base)
* [Council Tax Requirement returns (CTR)](#_Council_Tax_Requirement)
  + [Detailed parish level information](#_Council_Tax_Requirement)
  + [Selected other information](#_Council_Tax_Requirement_1)

We are asking you to tell us the impact these proposed reductions could have on you and your work

**Who we are seeking views from?**

We would particularly like to hear from regular users of these outputs, but anyone can respond and all views will be considered fully.

**Duration**

This user engagement exercise will open on 8th August 2014 and close on 19th September 2014.

**Enquiries**

If you have an enquiry about this consultation please email [lgfstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:lgfstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk) You can also email this address if you would like to discuss any of the outputs in more detail, and we will put you in touch with an expert in the relevant area.

We aim to publish a summary of the findings of this exercise in autumn 2014.

Thank you for your help.

Sandra Tudor

Deputy Director

Data and Analysis

Local Government Finance

**Questionnaire**

Name of Product:

# Revenue Account Budget forms

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-fund-revenue-account-budget>

Specific Item(s):

**Capital items columns and net total cost columns**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Revenue Account Budget forms

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-fund-revenue-account-budget>

Specific section(s):

**All items included in the specific and special revenue grants section (SG)**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Revenue Account Outturn forms

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-fund-revenue-account-outturn>

Specific Item(s):

**Capital items columns and net total cost columns on the RS, RSX and RO1-RO6 forms**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Revenue Account Outturn forms

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-fund-revenue-account-outturn>

Specific Item(s):

**All items included in the specific and special revenue grants section (RG)**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Revenue Account Outturn forms

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-fund-revenue-account-outturn>

Specific Item(s):

**All items included in the trading account services return (TSR)**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Revenue Account Outturn forms

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/general-fund-revenue-account-outturn>

Specific Item(s):

**All items included in the subjective analysis return (SAR)**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are collected once every three years rather than annually.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Capital Forecast Return

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-forecast-return>

Specific sections:

**All items included in the capital forecast return**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Capital Outturn Return

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/capital-outturn-return>

Specific sections:

**COR4 - Memo lines M6 to M14**

**COR5 - Part C**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Council Tax Base Form

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-tax-base-calculation>

Specific sections:

**Council Tax base supplementary form – Part 3 discount disregards**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Council Tax Requirement returns

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-tax-requirement-return>

Specific sections:

**Detailed parish level data included on the ‘CTR1 Form-Local’ tab, specifically question 5: List of all parishes including name, type, amount precepted on billing authority, tax base for precept purposes and the average band D council tax.**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

Survey outputs

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?



Name of Product:

# Council Tax Requirement returns

Current form and guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-tax-requirement-return>

Specific sections:

**­Line 2 - Aggregate of special expenses (if any) issued by the billing authority**

**Line 5 - The amount of any levies and special levies issued for the year**

**Lines 18-20 - Reserves**

**Line 21 - Amount in respect of estimated Community Charge items**

**Line 22 - Amount in respect of the billing authority's share of estimated Collection Fund deficit**

Please indicate the impact on you/your work if the above items are discontinued.



If you answered 'High' or 'Medium' impact, please give further information for each of the following questions.

What mandatory activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What other activities will you no longer be able to carry out?



What policies will you be unable to inform?



What additional costs will you or others incur?



Any other impact?

**Information about you**

Are you responding as:



















……………………………………………………………………………………..….

Are your responses on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual?





If you are representing a group or organisation, please provide details.

Organisation name:…………………………………………………………………..

Contact name:…………………………………………………..…………………….

Email address:………………………………………………………………………

Telephone number:………………………………………………………………......

Please complete your personal details below.

Name:……………………………………….………………………………………….

Email address:………………………………………………………………………

Telephone number:…………………………………………………………………..

May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation?





**Thank you for responding to this user engagement exercise which will help inform the changes we need to make.**